

CHAOS IN ARMY PAY STIRS WHOLE NATION

Washington Is Deluged With
Complaints From Families
in Need.

RISK BUREAU GETS BUSY

Soldiers Declare They Cannot
Even Get Liberty Bonds
Long Paid For.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—With the war
over to all intents and purposes, the

most distressing condition in the army
yet revealed has been coming to the
surface for weeks. Soldiers and their
families are suffering keen privations in
hundreds and thousands of cases because
of the apparent complete collapse of the
army pay system, the system of making
allotments to soldiers' families and the
failure of the War Risk Insurance Bu-
reau to make payments due to depend-
ents of soldiers who have given their
lives in their country's cause.

It is safe to say that upwards of a
hundred thousand complaints have found
their way to Washington. Senators and
Representatives are literally flooded with
piles of complaints reaching them from
soldiers and from the families of sol-
diers. The conditions disclosed have
been repeatedly denounced.

On top of this is a new complaint,
affecting the delinquency of the Treas-
ury Department. Soldiers who have
never even been out of the country, as
well as thousands who have returned
from France and are at posts or hospi-
tals in the United States, are complain-
ing that they have never received the
Liberty bonds of the second issue for

which they made complete payments six
months ago.

The War Department repeatedly has
been called upon for explanation of the
chaotic conditions, and resolutions de-
signed to investigate thoroughly into the
situation have been introduced in Con-
gress, but the Democratic chairmen of
the committees to which these resolutions
have been referred have not even called
their committees together to act on the
resolutions.

Innumerable instances, in some of
which pay and allotments and war risk
payments have been overdue more than
a year, and cases in which persistent
effort finally was rewarded by payments
being made only to have them cease al-
together again for periods of months,
have been recited in letters to the War
Department and to members of the
House and Senate. The failure of the
War Department and of the War Risk
Bureau in these matters, particularly
when in many thousands of cases the
men affected are wounded veterans who
have returned to the United States pen-
niless, has aroused not only the deep
anger of Congress but of practically the
entire nation.

It is threatened by some members to

force the issue on the floor of the House
over the heads of the committees to
which the various resolutions have been
referred if there is not speedy action.

Some relief through straightening-out
the situation at the command of Con-
gress may be expected, but it cannot be
immediate relief. The only immediate
relief possible, it is believed, is through
placing the subject of pay and allot-
ments in the hands of some organization
or bureau of the War Department, di-
rected by some one capable of not only
straightening out the present confusion
but instituting an entirely new system.

So far as the War risk bureau is con-
cerned a move has been made to correct
conditions. A new head has been in-
stalled and the work now is in charge
of Herbert D. Brown, chief of the
United States Bureau of Efficiency.

Members of the military committees
of the Senate and the House who have
looked into the situation declare that
apparently a host of reasons are at the
bottom of the collapse of the pay sys-
tem. To begin with, not enough of the
officers at the War Department have
been able to adapt themselves to sys-
tematizing their work on the enormous
scale called for by the present war.

Instead of handling the affairs of a
small standing army, usually less than
100,000 men, with practically permanent
stations, the officers trained in that
school suddenly were called upon to
handle the affairs of an army of 4,000,-
000, with more than half of the men on
foreign soil 3,000 miles away.

Further evidences of this failure have
been abundant, it is pointed out. The
distressing early failures of the aircraft
programme are cited as instances, as
well as the failure at time to have suffi-
cient artillery and machine guns without
relying upon the British and French for
them; the uniform scandals, and other
incidents showing the inability of some
Army officers and Army organizations to
extend their efforts in proportion with
the expanded work they had to handle.

Another cause ascribed by members
of the military committees is the fact
that apparently the signing of the ar-
mistice threw the army pay system
out of gear. No plans had been for-
mulated, as far as can be discovered,
for keeping close track of the men re-
turned to the United States and as a
consequence pay vouchers for men
now in the United States, in hundreds
of instances, have been forwarded to

France because the greatest number
of men of the unit to which they
belonged was still in France.

In extenuation it is explained that
the cables have been so full with the
names and addresses of dead and
wounded soldiers that it has been vir-
tually impossible to keep the War De-
partment posted with the name and
unit and destination of every soldier
bound for the United States on each
ship departing from France.

Another reason told to members of
the military committees is the fact
that many wounded men still in France
have been detached from organizations
which have since been sent back to the
United States. In their cases pay
vouchers would be sent to the head-
quarters of the unit to which wounded
men had been attached.

The War Department in the cases of
wounded men sent here who have not
been paid, has stated that the men came
here with nothing to show when they
were last paid in France and that their
records would have to be sent after
them in order to clear up each case.

While the War Department is dis-
posed to shift the blame for the non-
payment of returned soldiers to the com-
manding officers in France, at the same
time the excuse was made for them
that for two months preceding the sign-
ing of the armistice, the American
armies were exceedingly busy in the
great final drive of the war, that head-
quarters and whole units were seldom
two days in the same place, and that
even after the armistice and until very
recently, the march into territory to be
occupied by American troops kept this
condition alive.

There is much talk here now of turn-
ing over to Major-General Enoch Crowder,
Provost Marshal General and Judge Ad-
vocate General of the Army, the prob-
lem of bringing order out of the pay
and allotment chaos. Gen. Crowder,
almost alone of the older officers who
remained in Washington, has been
signally able to grasp the scope of the
dimensions of the great undertakings
of the War Department and of the na-
tion in the war, and because of his
great confidence he inspired through

his efficient management in raising
and assigning the selective draft army
his name is being repeatedly suggested
in Congress as one of the men certain
to be able to clear up the mess and in-
stitute an efficient system.

OFFICIALS MUST PAY FARES.
McAdoo Ends Free Rides by Many
New Jerseyites.
TRENTON, Dec. 28.—The Federal Rail-
road Administration, through Director-
General McAdoo, has notified Secretary
of State Martin that passes will be
issued to only about 150 State officials
designated in the original railroad fran-
chises, with the addition of members
of the Public Utility Commission who
are regarded as quasi-public officials.
More than 400 State officials hereto-
fore have ridden free on New Jersey
railroads. In addition to the free rid-
ing officials designated in the original
franchise laws and the railroad revision
of 1873 the Legislature has augmented
this list from time to time. The more
recent additions will be eliminated.

Stern Brothers

West Forty-second Street

West Forty-third Street

Beginning To-morrow, the Annual Sale of HOUSEKEEPING LINENS

Below Present Wholesale Cost

Stern Brothers' standard grades of superior linens
noted for their wearing and laundering qualities.

Irish Linen Weft Table Cloths

Full bleached, at these
attractive prices:

\$2.25, 3.50 and 4.25

Irish Linen Weft Napkins,
dozen - - **\$4.25 and 5.25**

Irish Pure Linen Satin Damask Table Cloths

Full bleached, heavy weight,

Special \$3.50

Napkins to match,
22 by 22 inches, doz. **\$5.75**

Irish Pure Linen Table Cloths

full bleached, heavy weight,
round and square designs,

at \$6.50, 8.25 and 9.75

Napkins to match,
dozen - - **\$8.25 and 9.00**

Irish Linen Satin Double Damask Table Cloths and Napkins

Full bleached, handsome circular designs, heavy weight;

CLOTHS, 2 by 2 yards, - - -	at \$7.50	NAPKINS, 22 by 22 inches, - - doz.	\$6.75
2 by 2 1/2 yards, - - -	\$8.95	24 by 24 inches, - - "	\$8.50
2 by 3 yards, - - -	11.50	26 by 26 inches, - - "	\$9.75

Irish All Linen Satin Damask

Full bleached, handsome designs

at \$1.65 yd.

Dimity Bedspreads, hemmed
\$2.25, 2.50 and 2.95

Crochet Bedspreads, hemmed
\$1.95, 2.25 and 2.50

Satin Finish Bedspreads,
\$3.95, 4.95 and 5.75

Heavy All Linen Typed Kitchen Towels

Hemmed, red borders,

at \$6.75 doz.

Irish All Linen Huck Towels

Hemstitched; very soft and absorbent,

at \$5.90, 6.75 and 7.75 doz.

Huck Towels, hemmed, doz **2.95, 4.75, 5.90**
Turkish Bath Towels, hemmed, dz. **5.40, 6.50**

Mosaic Tea Napkins

Hand embroidered, hemst'd, assorted corner designs,

at \$6.50 doz.

Irish Linen Sheets, hemst'd, pr. **9.85, 12.00**
Irish Linen Pillow Cases " " **\$2.50, 2.95**

Special facilities for embroidering, by hand, Initials, Monograms, Crests, etc., at very moderate prices.

Muslin Sheets and Pillow Cases, Blankets and Comfortables

Our customary Half Yearly Sale brings
these uncommon price advantages:

Muslin Sheets, hemmed, -	\$1.15, 1.50, 1.68, 1.75
Muslin Pillow Cases, hemmed, 30c, 38c, 42c, 45c	
Muslin Sheets, hemstitched, 1.65, 1.85, 1.95, 2.55	
Muslin Pillow Cases, hemst'd, 45c, 48c, 50c, 52c	
Muslin Pillow Case, embroidered, - - -	75c

White Blankets

Pink and blue borders,

Single Size, pr. **\$6.75, 8.95**

Double Size, " **\$7.75, 9.50**

Extra Large, " **\$8.75, 11.50**

Comfortables

(Double Size)

Figured Silkoline, - - - **\$3.45**

Novelty Silk & Cotton Chiffon **6.50**

Silk Mull, wool filling, - - **9.95**

Fancy Colored Blankets, pr. **\$5.95 and 7.50**
new plaid designs, in several desirable colors.

An Important White Sale! WOMEN'S BLOUSES

At Striking Price Advantages.

New Model Blouses

Of Madras, Batiste, Voile and Dimity, some with
Philippine hand embroidery—tailored and dressy
models with high or low collars,

Special \$2.15

Voile and Batiste Blouses

New, well-made models with narrow tucking; yoke
backs; several new collar and cuff treatments,

Special \$3.95

Advance Spring Blouse Styles

In Fine Voile and Batiste, some effectively trimmed
with colored handkerchiefs; others with rose or
blue batiste. Several styles are all white,

Special \$4.85

Annual Sale of Women's HIGH GRADE CORSETS

Offering the most desirable models and ma-
terials, conveniently arranged in three groups,

At Most Substantial Price Concessions

Group I.—Lily of France Corsets,

Of Mercerized and Silk Broche; topless, low and
medium bust; elaborately trimmed; two or three
sets of garters; white or pink; in ALL SIZES,
Regularly sold up to **\$8.50**

\$3.95

Group II.—Lily of France Corsets,

Mercerized and Silk Broche; Empire top, top-
less, low top, also broad elastic top; pink; all sizes
Regularly sold up to **\$6.90**

\$3.35

Group III.—Reliable Quality Corsets,

Of Cotton and Mercerized Broche in flesh; also of
White Coutil in most wanted models; all sizes,
Regularly sold at **\$3.50**

\$2.45